



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES

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Agenda item 7

DETERMINATION OF THE DURATION OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 43, PARAGRAPH 10, OF THE CONVENTION

Note by the Secretary-General

Article 43, paragraph 10, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides, inter alia, that "the meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee" and that the duration of the meetings of the Committee "shall be determined, and reviewed, if necessary, by a meeting of the States Parties, ... subject to the approval of the General Assembly".

At its first session, the Committee would be expected, inter alia, to consider and adopt its rules of procedure in accordance with article 43 of the Convention; to consider and approve draft guidelines for the submission of reports by States Parties and to take decisions on such matters as arrangements for co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the organization of its future work and the preparation and format of its report to the General Assembly. In the Programme Budget Implications relating to the functioning of the Committee on the Rights of the Child contained in document A/C.5/44/28 of 15 November 1989, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, that a three-week session would be required in 1991 to enable the Committee to deal with those matters. The Secretary-General also stated that in accordance with the principles embodied in General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, he intended to convene the first regular session of the Committee during the first half of 1991 at the United Nations Office at Geneva, the headquarters of the Committee's substantive Secretariat.

In the light of the foregoing and pursuant to article 43, paragraph 10, of the Convention, the States Parties may wish to take a decision concerning the duration of the first session of the Committee.

Article 43, paragraph 10, also provides that the Committee shall normally meet annually. For both technical and substantive reasons, it is not yet possible to establish the dates or the agenda of the Committee's second session in 1992 and hence, the duration of that session, which will depend importantly on such variables as the number of initial State reports, if any, that will be available for consideration by the Committee. In view of these circumstances, the States Parties may wish to agree that the Committee's second session in 1992 should be convened for a period of up to three weeks, leaving the exact duration of the session to be fixed by the Committee, in consultation with the Secretary-General.
